

**Community Sustainability Council
Greensboro, North Carolina
May 10, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Community Sustainability Council was held on Monday, May 10, 2010 in the Plaza Level Conference Room of the Melvin Municipal Office Building, beginning at 2:33 p.m. Members present were: Co-Chairs Joel Landau and Bob Powell, Art Davis, Tom Duckwall, Tom Clary, Bob Skenes, Valerie Vickers, Eric Hoekstra, Derrick Giles, and Marlene Sanford. Staff present were: Dan Curry, Sue Schwartz, and Russ Clegg, HCD; Steve Randall, Engineering and Inspections and Jeryl Covington, Director of Environmental Services. Also present was ad-hoc advisor Montgomery Davis, Duke Energy.

Approval of Minutes from the April 12, 2010 Regular Meeting:

Mr. Hoekstra moved to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2010 meeting as amended, seconded by Mr. Skenes. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Mr. Davis joined the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Review the Public Engagement Process for the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP):

Mr. Clegg stated that the public meeting will be held in the Regency Room of the South Elm Street Center on Thursday, May 13, 2010. The room will be open from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. with formal presentations given at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. A draft of the SAP can be found on the City's CSC website. Information has been distributed via e-mail, a press release has been made, and City Council has received a copy of the Plan.

Mr. Clary and Ms. Sanford joined the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Chair Landau asked members for an update on their individual presentations. Mr. Curry reminded members that feedback sheets from the meetings should be returned to staff as they are an important part of the record.

- Co-Chair Powell has given two presentations, NFBPA and East Greensboro Rotary Club. He also mentioned contacting an architecture group.
- Ms. Vickers will send information to the Sunset Hills Neighborhood and will check on arranging a presentation. She has contacted several schools but the time of year makes scheduling presentations difficult. She will send information to teachers and coordinate with administrators to make a presentation to schools next year.
- Mr. Davis will arrange a presentation to the Neighborhood of Congress in June.
- Co-Chair Landau has contacted Sustainable Greensboro and is waiting to hear back from them regarding a date.
- Ms. Sanford has contacted Action Greensboro and hopes to present at the end of June. The presentation to TREBIC will be later this month or the first of June.
- Mr. Clary has made a presentation to the Sierra Club.
- Mr. Hoekstra will present to Environmental Stewardship Greensboro this Sunday. He will contact Holy Trinity Environmental Sustainability Council regarding a presentation at their June meeting.

Co-Chair Landau urged members to follow-up with their contacts to arrange the presentations.

Discuss Short-Term Plan for Getting the SAP in Front of City Council:

Mr. Curry said that the Plan has been sent out to various departments and feedback is expected back by May 21 at the latest so revisions can be made. He hopes to schedule a meeting with the City Manager's office the first week of June. A comprehensive set of feedback should be ready for the CSC to evaluate at their June meeting. He plans to request a briefing session with City Council in July.

Review Implementation of Department of Energy (DOE) Energy Efficiency Block Grant:

Ms. Schwartz reported on the progress of the solar LED street light program as part of the Greenway. The bid packages have been sent out and Phase IA of the Greenway should be underway by the middle of June. She also updated members on the hydroelectric turbine at the Mitchell Treatment Plant. The RFP for the engineering work has been sent out and is expected back in another week. Construction is expected to begin in February of 2011.

In addition, the bid packages for City facility upgrades are in process of being prepared and bids for the two recycling projects, City facility recycling and multifamily recycling, have already been sent out. Ms. Schwartz hopes to have a more detailed chart of the various parts of the Grant for members to review next month.

Mr. Skenes asked staff to provide a specific list showing where funds from the grant were applied.

Update on Status of DOE Energy Efficiency Competitive Grant:

Mr. Curry, Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Randall, and Co-Chair Powell were present in Washington, D.C. when the DOE awarded the City a \$5 million dollar energy efficiency grant. The grant is for building energy efficiency work and will go toward retrofitting approximately 3,600 buildings in a three-year time frame. The grant will serve the geographic area of east Greensboro and will be operational by late summer.

Mr. Curry commented on the challenge of finding another \$25 million dollars to leverage the \$5 million dollar grant. Co-Chair Powell pointed out the resulting benefit, once the matching money is located, of having \$30 million dollars worth of construction work in the city of Greensboro.

Mr. Curry discussed ways that the program is being set up, tax credits, potential legislation changes, and the role of the energy companies.

Ashley Wade, a student at A&T University, spoke from the audience and requested a copy of the information pamphlet that will be distributed to each resident in the geographic area. Mr. Curry indicated that no information is available yet although there are plans to hire a marketing firm to design the packaging information.

Review 1-Page Handout for the SAP:

Co-Chair Landau distributed copies of the Executive Summary as a document that could be used as a handout. Feedback from members on how to improve the handout included the following suggestions:

- Number the pages.
- Bullet points are needed on page 1, first paragraph.
- More graphics are needed.
- On a graph, show the difference between "Business as Usual" versus "What the Plan is Proposing".

- Bullet points are needed in the next to last paragraph on page 1.
- The title of the pie chart should specify “GHG” Emission Sources.
- GHG should be defined.

Mr. Curry said that staff would make revisions and he asked members to e-mail additional suggestions as soon as possible.

Discuss Possible Agendas for the Coming Year:

In addition to revisions to the SAP, members commented on possible agenda items for next year.

Mr. Davis suggested that the Council should monitor implementation and continue to partner with other community groups.

Co-Chair Landau would like to see a big focus on green technology and tie it into the possibility of transforming Greensboro into a green economy.

Mr. Giles indicated he would like to focus on green opportunities from an environmental as well as an economic standpoint. He reiterated the advantages of marketing Greensboro’s name.

Ms. Vickers commented that she would like to see more education during the CSC meetings. She suggested inviting individuals to speak at meetings on green topics in the community.

Mr. Duckwall felt the Council should continue to promote participation in the community.

Mr. Hoekstra would like to focus on finding other ways for the public to view community sustainability. He gave as an example having the public understand how parks can fit into the bigger picture.

Mr. Clary commented on the importance of identifying economic development opportunities and the possibility of new committee structure. He pointed out examples of environmental cost-effectiveness.

Mr. Curry indicated that the CSC would be engaged in the preparation of the sustainability element in the Comprehensive Plan.

Communications Sent to the CSC this Month:

Co-Chair Landau informed members that he forwarded an e-mail from a potential contractor to Ms. Schwartz.

Items from Co-Chairs:

Co-Chair Landau reminded members that five terms will be expiring soon. Ms. Sanford and Co-Chair Landau have requested reappointment, and seats from Districts 2, 3, and 5 will be opening up. Members discussed potential candidates.

Items from Council Members:

Mr. Davis reminded members of the North Carolina Sustainable Communities Summit to be held at the Harris Conference Center in Charlotte on June 28 through 29, 2010.

Co-Chair Powell introduced two members of the audience, Ashley Wade and Sydney Knowle. Both are undergraduate students at NC A&T University who have summer internships. They will be attending the North Carolina Sustainable Communities Summit in Charlotte, NC.

Ms. Vickers updated members on the BioBlitz that will be held Saturday, May 15, 2010 at the Katherine Clay Edwards Library. She also stated that the Edible School Yard will be dedicated on May 21, 2010 at the Children's Museum. She urged members to visit the Edible School Yard.

Co-Chair Landau commented that it is City policy for a board member to continue serving until a replacement is found. He said that this may be the last meeting for Mr. Kollar, Mr. Hoekstra, and Ms. Leiner as their terms are expiring. He thanked them for their service.

Items from the Public:

Joe Wheby, 405-A Fulton Street, thanked the Council for their commitment and efforts.

Items from Staff:

None.

Acknowledgement of Absences:

Mr. Davis moved to acknowledge the absences of Ms. Leiner, Ms. Hancock, Mr. Kollar, Ms. Allen, and ad-hoc advisor Philip Morgan, seconded by Ms. Vickers. The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Adjournment:

There being no further business before the Group, the meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Landau
Co-Chairman

JL:sm